Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 AID-05 IGA-02 MCE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /094 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5036

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CONFIDENTIAL KHARTOUM 2614

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS, CD

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

REF: A. STATE 183292, B. NDJAMENA 2678

1. AS DEPT AWARE, WE HAVE DISCUSSED CHAD SITUATION WITH SEVERAL SENIOR SUDANESE OFFICIALS, BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN. MOST RECENTLY (AUG 2) DCM DISCUSSED CHAD DEVELOPMENTS WITH IZZ AL-DIN SAYED, CHAIRMAN PEOPLES ASSEMBLY FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. FYI -- SAYED IS VETERAN POLITICIAN AND FORMER MINISTER WHO IS FULLY INFORMED ON CONFIDENTIAL

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SUDANGOV POLICIES. END FYI. DCM HAS ALSO DISCUSSED CHAD IN PART WEEK WITH DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER PRESENTLY IN COUNTRY.

2. THERE HAS BEEN VIRTUAL UNANIMITY AMONG SUDANESE LEADERS OVER CHAD. ON ONE HAND MALLOUM GOVT IS CONSIDERED FRIENDLY AND WORTHY OF SUPPORT, HOWEVER, IT IS CONSIDERED

TO BE WEAK AND WILL REMAIN SO UNTIL SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL CONCESSIONS AND COMPROMISES MADE. SUDANGOV AND SUDAN MILITARY RELUCTANT BECOME INVOLVED MILITARILY, PARTICULARLY SINCE THEY HAVE MORE PRESSING REQUIREMENTS ALONG EASTERN FRONTIER AND WITH SUDAN ITSELF.

3. THEREFORE, SUDANGOV HAS LIMITED ITS ASSISTANCE TO POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT AND TO MEDIATING BETWEEN CHAD GOVT AND CERTAIN REBELS. WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY INTENTION TO PROVIDE MILITARY EQUIPMENT AT THIS STAGE SINCE, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THERE IS NO RPT NO SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE. NOR IS THERE ANY AMERICAN EQUIPMENT IN SUDAN WHICH CULD BE TRANSMITTED TO CHAD. ANY DELIVERIES OF US EQUIPMENT TO SUDAN WILL NOT BE MADE UNTIL 1978 AT EARLIEST, AND THIS EQUIPMENT WILL BE NEEDED BY SUDAN ITSELF. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT SUDAN MILITARY WOULD WISH IMMEDIATELY TO TRANSFER C-130S, FOR EXAMPLE, TO CHAD.

4. COMMENT: RE PARA 2, REF B, ALTHOUGH SUDANGOV MAY HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPAL TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT, IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW SUDANESE WILL BE CAPABLE OF PROVIDING ANY SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO CHAD SINCE LARGE AMOUNTS SURPLUS EQUIPMENT NOT AVAILABLE, AND EVEN TRANSFERRING EQUIPMENT WOULD BE DIFFICULT. BERGUS

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